

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 10133 230644Z
ACTION OES-06

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 SSO-00 L-03 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 NSC-05 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 DLOS-06
SAL-01 /062 W

----- 102384 /10

O 230623Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1191

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: EFIS PLOS KS US
SUBJ: FORMAL SIGNING OF U.S. ROK BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT
(GIFA)

REF: (A) STATE 309422; (B) SEOUL 10100

1. DRAWING ON REF A OUTLINING USG RATIONALE FOR
PREFERING WASHINGTON VENUE FOR SIGNING OF US/ROK
BILATERAL FISHERY AGREEMENT (GIFA), EMBOFF DIS-
CUSSED VENUE QUESTION FURTHER WITH BAE BYUNG-SEUNG,
TREATIES DIVISION, ROKG MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
(MOFA). BAE EXPLAINED THAT, BECAUSE OF IMPORTANCE
OF GIFA TO ROKG, MOFA HAD WANTED TO HAVE SIGNING
CEREMONY IN SEOUL AND HAD ASSUMED FROM PREVIOUS
EXPERIENCE, E.G., RECENT SIGNING OF TAX CONVENTION
HERE, THAT THERE WERE NO TECHNICAL REASONS WHY THIS
COULD NOT BE DONE. HOWEVER, AFTER BEING CONVINCED
BY EMBOFF THAT TO DO SO WOULD, IN FACT, RESULT IN
CONSIDERABLE DELAY, BAE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS
CERTAIN MOFA WOULD AGREE TO WASHINGTON VENUE IN
INTEREST OF EXPEDITING THE PROCEEDINGS.

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2. COMPLICATION NOW IS THAT MOFA, HAVING RECEIVED
CABLE YESTERDAY FROM ROK EMBASSY INDICATING DEPART-
MENT'S PREFERENCE FOR WASHINGTON VENUE, SENT CABLE
LATE YESTERDAY TO ROK EMBASSY INSTRUCTING IT TO
INDICATE THAT ROKG STILL PREFERS SEOUL VENUE.
THIS CABLE WAS SENT BEFORE MOFA WAS REALLY CON-

VINced THAT INSISTENCE ON SEOUL VENUE WOULD CLEARLY
DELAY PROCEEDINGS. BAE SAID HE WOULD NOW NEED
RESPONSE TO THAT CABLE BEFORE TAKING THIS MATTER
TO HIGHER LEVELS WITHIN MOFA FOR DECISION.

3. IF DEPARTMENT CAN ASSURE THAT ROK EMBASSY
RESPONDS TO CABLE DESCRIBED PARA 2 ABOVE WITH
REITERATION OF DEPARTMENT'S RATIONALE FOR PRE-
FERING WASHINGTON VENUE, STRESSING DELAY THAT
SEOUL VENUE WOULD ENTAIL, IT SHOULD BE POSSIBLE
TO GET QUESTION OF VENUE RESOLVED STATISFACTORILY.

4. AS CONCERNS SUGGESTION FOR AVOIDING ANY DELAY
THAT MIGHT BE CAUSED BY FINAL PREPARATION OF KOREAN
VERSION OF AGREEMENT, BAE SAID THAT MOFA CABLED ROK
EMBASSY YESTERDAY GIVING APPROVAL TO MINOR REVISIONS
SUGGESTED BY USG AND ADDING A FEW MINOR CORRECTIONS
OF ERRORS IT HAD DISCOVERED. BAE WAS CONFIDENT
THAT MESSAGE WOULD CLEAR THE WAY FOR FINAL PREPARATION
OF THE KOREAN VERSION.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FISHERIES, AGREEMENTS, TREATY SIGNATURE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 DEC 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL10133
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760470-0889
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761216/aaaaanvq.tel
Line Count: 82
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 309422, 76 SEOUL 10100
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 JUN 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORMAL SIGNING OF U.S. ROK BILATERAL FISHERIES AGREEMENT (GIFA)
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, KS, US, GIF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006